

It is important to have your baby's hearing checked.

Your baby can't tell you if he or she can't hear your voice, a soft song or a nursery rhyme. Babies who do not hear may have problems developing normal speech and language which may lead to difficulties in school.

It's important to have your baby's hearing tested before leaving the hospital. We need to identify hearing problems as early as possible to make sure your baby has the best chance to develop normally.

*Babies can't tell us if they can't hear.*



South Carolina Department of Health  
and Environmental Control

[www.scdhec.gov](http://www.scdhec.gov)

First Sound is made possible through the collaborative efforts of South Carolina's hospitals, audiologists, and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control.

The South Carolina Universal  
Newborn Hearing Screening  
and Intervention Program

Care Line  
1-800-868-0404

*First Sound*

Newborn Hearing Screening



## Why should my baby's hearing be screened?

Every year approximately 12,000 babies born in the U.S. will have a significant hearing loss at birth. More than half of babies born with hearing problems are otherwise healthy and have no family history of hearing loss. To ensure every baby with hearing loss is identified, we require South Carolina hospitals to either screen babies or provide parents with information on where their infant can be screened.

**It is important for you to be sure that your baby has normal hearing. The first year of your baby's life is critical to the development of normal language and speech.**

## How will my baby's screening test be done?



There are two types of hearing screening tests that may be used with your baby. One test, the Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test, measures your baby's brainwaves to see if sounds are heard normally. The other test measures Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE) directly through a

microphone to determine the status of your baby's hearing. Both tests are safe and take only a few minutes. Most babies sleep through the hearing tests.

## What if my baby does not pass the test?



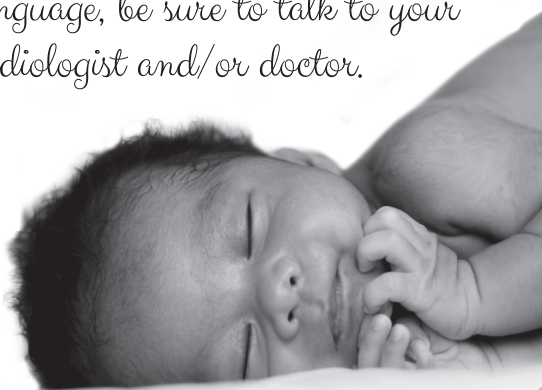
There are many reasons your baby may not pass the hearing test and require a second evaluation.

**It is important that you follow through with recommendations made by your hospital staff, audiologist and/or doctor.**

## If my baby passes the screening, do I need to have his/her hearing checked again?

Hearing loss can develop at any time after the initial screening for many different reasons. If you have a risk factor, such as a family history of hearing loss, your baby should be tested regularly as recommended by your audiologist and/or doctor.

*If you ever have concerns about your child's hearing, speech, or language, be sure to talk to your audiologist and/or doctor.*



## Speech, Language and Hearing Skills

Here is a list of some things a child with normal hearing should be able to do.

### *Around 2 Months of Age*

- Jumps at loud sounds
- Calms to familiar voices
- Makes vowel sounds like "ohh," and "ahh"

### *Around 4 Months of Age*

- Looks for sounds with eyes
- Starts babbling
- Uses a variety of voice sounds, such as squeals, whimpers and chuckles

### *Around 6 Months of Age*

- Turns head towards sound
- Begins to imitate speech sounds
- Babbles ("ba-ba," "ma-ma," and "ga-ga")

### *Around 9 Months of Age*

- Imitates speech sounds of others
- Understands "no-no" or "bye-bye"
- Turns head towards soft sounds

### *Around 12 Months of Age*

- Correctly uses "ma-ma" or "da-da"
- Responds to singing or music
- Finds sounds